Docket No. AUS920010293US1

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method in a data processing system for grouping
based on attributes, the method comprising:
        sending messages indicating an availability of a set
of attributes relating to data processing systems in
which the attributes are used to create groups;
10   receiving a request from a requestor to generate a
group using selected attributes from the set of
attributes;
        dynamically generating a group based on the selected
attributes; and
15   returning the group to the requestor.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the groups are at
least one of application groups, user groups, and data
processing system groups.
20

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the set of attributes
include at least one of a processor type, processor clock
speed, an amount of memory, memory type, bus system, bus
clock speed, storage capacity, connection, video card
25   specification, and operating system.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the group identifies
a set of data processing systems.

30   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the group is used to
install software to members of the group.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the requestor is a
software process in a data processing system used to
request members of the group.

5   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the group is
generated using non-preexisting data.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the group is
generated using meta-data describing attributes within
10   the set of attributes.

9.   A data processing system comprising:
        a bus system;
        a communications unit connected to the bus system;
15   a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
memory includes as set of instructions; and
        a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to send messages indicating a set of
20   attributes relating to data processing systems on which
groups are created; receive a request from a requestor to
generate a group using selected attributes from the set
of attributes; dynamically generate a group based on the
selected attributes; and return the group to the
25   requestor.

10.   The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the
bus system is a single bus.

30   11.   The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the
bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

Docket No. AUS920010293US1

12. The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

13. The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the
5   communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

14. A data processing system for grouping based on attributes, the data processing system comprising:
10   sending means for sending messages indicating an availability of a set of attributes relating to data processing systems in which the attributes are used to create groups;
        receiving means for receiving a request from a
15 requestor to generate a group using selected attributes from the set of attributes;
        dynamically generating means for dynamically generating a group based on the selected attributes; and
        returning means for returning the group to the
20 requestor.

15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the groups are at least one of application groups, user groups, and data processing system groups.
25
16. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the set of attributes include at least one of a processor type, processor clock speed, an amount of memory, memory type, bus system, bus clock speed, storage capacity,
30 connection, video card specification, and operating system.

17.   The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the group identifies a set of data processing systems.

18.   The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the
5   group is used to install software to members of the group.

19.   The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the requestor is a software process in a data processing
10   system used to request members of the group.

20.   The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the group is generated using non-preexisting data.

15   21.   A computer program product in a computer readable medium for grouping based on attributes, the computer program product comprising:
        first instructions for sending messages indicating an availability of a set of attributes relating to data
20   processing systems in which the attributes are used to create groups;
        second instructions for receiving a request from a requestor to generate a group using selected attributes from the set of attributes;
25   third instructions for dynamically generating a group based on the selected attributes; and
        fourth instructions for returning the group to the requestor.

30   22.   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the groups are at least one of application groups, user groups, and data processing system groups.

Docket No. AUS920010293US1

23. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the set of attributes include at least one of a processor
5   type, processor clock speed, an amount of memory, memory type, bus system, bus clock speed, storage capacity, connection, video card specification, and operating system.

10   24. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the group identifies a set of data processing systems.

25. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the group is used to install software to members of the
15   group.

26. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the requestor is a software process in a data processing system used to request members of the group.
20

27. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the group is generated using non-preexisting data.